What is claimed is:

1.   A method replaying a portion of a communication, comprising the

steps of:

establishing a connection between first and second end nodes;

receiving, at a buffering module in the connection remote from the first

and second end nodes, a communications signal sent from the second end node to the first

end node;

maintaining in a memory a segment of the communications signal that was

transmitted through the buffering module immediately previous to present time;

receiving at the buffering module a request to retransmit at least a portion

of the segment of the signal; and

retransmitting from the buffering module to the first end node the portion

of the segment.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the connection

is a PSTN, and wherein the step of establishing a connection includes establishing a

circuit-switched path.

3.   The method of claim 2, wherein the request to retransmit is a

touch-tone sequence.

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the request to retransmit is an in-

band signal.

1   5.   The method of claim 2, wherein the request to retransmit is an out-

2   of-band signal.

1   6.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving at

2   the buffering module a request to begin maintaining in a memory a segment of the signal.

1   7.   The method of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the connection

2   is a packet switched network.

1   8.   The method of claim 7, wherein the step of establishing a

2   connection comprises establishing a TCP/IP connection.

1   9.   The method of claim 1, wherein the communications signal is a

2   voice signal, and the segment of the signal is a time segment of the voice signal.

1   10.   The method of claim 1, wherein the connection includes a wireless

2   signal between the first node and the buffering module.

1   11.   The method of claim 1, wherein the connection includes an

2   unreliable portion between the first node and the buffering module.

1   12.   The method of claim 1, wherein the first node is a handheld device

2   selected from a group consisting of a premises telephone station set, a wireless telephone

3   handset and a PDA.

1   13.   The method of claim 1, wherein the connection includes an audio

2   bridge, and wherein the step of maintaining in memory a segment of the signal comprises

3   maintaining in memory a segment of a signal sent by the audio bridge to listening station

4   sets.

1   14.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of, after

2   retransmitting the portion of the segment, transmitting the signal to the first end node

3   beginning at a point immediately subsequent to the portion of the segment.

1   15.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of, after

2   retransmitting the portion of the segment, transmitting the signal to the first end node

3   beginning at a point in the signal received from the second node at present time.

1   16.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing a

2   record of the retransmitting step in a message record accumulator.

1   17.   The method of claim 1, wherein the request to retransmit received

2   at the buffering module is automatically generated.

1   18.   The method of claim 17, wherein the request is generated upon

2   detection of corrupted data.

1   19.   The method of claim 17, wherein the request is generated at the

2   first node.

1   20.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving a

2   communications signal further includes receiving a communications signal sent from the

3   first end node to the second end node.

1   21.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of transmitting

2   from the buffering module to a memory the portion of the segment.

1   22.   A method for retransmitting a portion of a communication signal to

2   an end node in a network having an unreliable link, comprising the steps of:

3   buffering, at a location in the network on a side of the unreliable link

4   opposite the end node, a segment of the communication transmitted immediately previous

5   to present time;

6   receiving, at said location, a request to retransmit at least a portion of the

7   communication segment; and

8   retransmitting the portion of the segment across the unreliable link to the

9   end node.

1   23.   The method of claim 22, wherein the unreliable link is a wireless

2   signal.

1   24.   The method of claim 22, wherein the request to retransmit is a

2   touch-tone sequence.

1   25.   The method of claim 22, wherein the first node is a handheld

2   device selected from a group consisting of a wireless telephone handset and a PDA.

1   26.   The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of storing a

2   record of the retransmitting step in a message record accumulator.

1   27.   The method of claim 22, wherein the request to retransmit received

2   at the buffering module is automatically generated.

1   28.   The method of claim 27, wherein the request is generated upon

2   detection of corrupted data.

1   29.   The method of claim 27, wherein the request is generated at the

2   first node.